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SUBJ: THIS IS IR NO. (b)(3):10 USC 424

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) TITLE: POLITICAL/MILITARY - SOME POSITIVE VIEWS FROM A "HARDLINER" (U)

4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 791201

6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 791227

7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 791201, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

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PAGE 1

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PAGE 2

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15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO; ~~NOFORN CAVEAT APPLIED TO PROTECT SOURCE AND METHODS UTILIZED.~~

16. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SUMMARY: THIS REPORT FORWARDS COMMENTS OF MAJOR GENERAL CARLOS G. ((SUAREZ MASON)), SOON TO RETIRE CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARGENTINE ARMY. HE HAD POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT A RATHER HARD-HITTING TALK GIVEN TO THE ARGENTINE ARMY GENERAL STAFF BY COLONEL (RETIRED) JOHN M. ((COLLINS)) (AUTHOR OF "GRAND STRATEGY") DURING HIS SHORT LECTURE TOUR HERE IN LATE 7911. COLLINS SOMEWHAT BLUNTLY TOLD THE OFFICERS THAT UNLESS ARGENTINA ATTACKED THE ROOT CAUSES OF THEIR SOCIAL PROBLEMS, TERRORISM WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW. ACCORDING TO SOME ATTENDEES, THE REMARKS WERE NOT WELL RECEIVED. MG SUAREZ MASON LATER TOLD [] THAT THE COMMENTS WERE WELL REASONED AND; "WE NEEDED TO HEAR THEM." HIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS MORE REASON AND REFLECTION THAN HE IS OFTEN GIVEN CREDIT FOR.

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22. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DETAILS:

A. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ AT AN ARTILLERY DAY CEREMONY, [] TALKED WITH MG CARLOS G. ((SUAREZ MASON)), CHIEF OF STAFF, ARGENTINE ARMY, ABOUT THE RECENT TALK GIVEN BY COLONEL (USA RETIRED) JOHN M. ((COLLINS)) TO THE ARGENTINE ARMY GENERAL STAFF. COLLINS BASICALLY APPLIED PORTIONS OF HIS BOOK "GRAND STRATEGY" TO THE COUNTER-INSURGENCY OR COUNTER-GUERILLA PROBLEM. HIS POINT WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT IF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEEK OUT AND ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THE ROOT CAUSES WHICH SUPPORT TERRORISM, THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE MORE TERRORISTS. HE CITED THE HIGH INFLATION RATE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AS TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS THAT HAD TO BE CORRECTED. COLLINS LATER SAID [] THAT HE THOUGHT THE RESPONSE TO THIS PARTICULAR LECTURE WAS NOT TOO POSITIVE. IN DISCUSSION WITH MG SUAREZ MASON, [] MENTIONED COLLINS CONCERN THAT HE HAD NOT MADE HIS POINT WELL, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. SUAREZ MASON'S RESPONSE WAS: "ON THE CONTRARY, COLLINS ARGUMENTS WERE LOGICAL AND PERSUASIVE - WE NEEDED TO HEAR THEM, AND TO LISTEN, AND TO LEARN FROM THEM - HE IS RIGHT, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY TO HEAR IT."

(b)(3):10
USC 424

(b)(3):10
USC 424

(b)(3):10
USC 424

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ COMMENT: [] EXPERIENCE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SUAREZ MASON, AND IN LISTENING TO HIM TALK IN MILITARY FUNCTIONS LEAVES RO WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS VERY BRIGHT, AND CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE THAN COMMONLY THOUGHT. THE ABOVE COMMENTS FROM SUAREZ MASON WOULD INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED A HARDLINER IN THE PAST (WITH JUSTIFICATION) HE IS NOW SUPPORTING A MORE MODERATE REASONED APPROACH.

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PAGE 2

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